BRONZE

—ブロンズ—

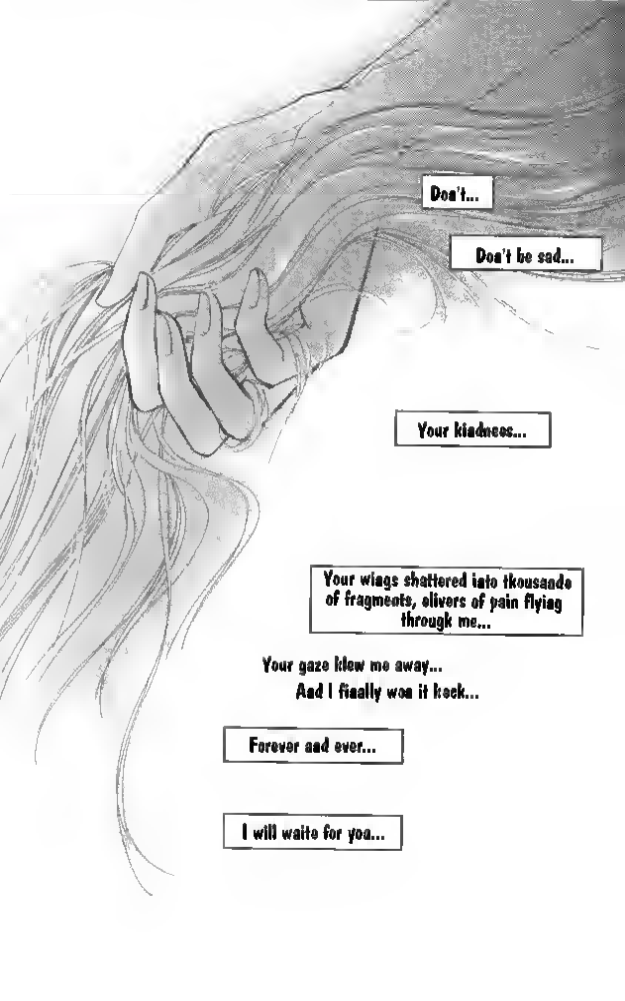
ZETSUAI since 19

Owned by Game over or continue...

MINAMI OZAKI

"For what reason
do I grow my hair?
To hide my face!"

Do you know the meaning of this ring?
I've given up my heart to it. It is everything I am and all that I say as a man.
VOLUME 23: Liar


Don't...
Don't be sad...
Your kindness...
Your wings shattered into thousands of fragments, slivers of pain flying through me...
Your gaze blew me away...
And I finally won it back...
Forever and ever...
I will waite for you...

Darling,
You'll catch a cold... Please, let's shut the door.

The air is crisp... The moon's soft rays are magnificent...
It would be a shame to block their beauty.
No.
I prefer to have the door open.

I really want to cover this silver blue edge with...
the crimson blood of the victim!
Don't you think it's beautiful?
Yeah.

It's important to watch your health. I don't want you to catch a cold.
It's time you went to bed. It's getting late now.
Kurauchi
I am, aren't I?
My... What a scary man you are!
Yes!
If you would be so kind as to escort her to her room; you may retire as well.
should be a splendid baby boy.
Our second child...
Then you wouldn't like a girl?
would like a pretty girl...
Oh...

Oer secoed soo coe he aoythieg, depeodieg oo his hrother's kiodeess.
The third soo never accomplishes eeything; he's worthless from birth.
Besides, if you don't get us e girl, I would get really worried.
The second hirth mest he e hoy. If you went e girl, thee do it io the third hirth.
giggle
Oh! But why?
The first light to darkeo...
Aed the eldest soo is?

You know pretty much!
Now...

I've always been wondering...
How come that you can always...
sneak into this mansion when it's enclosed by a high fence...

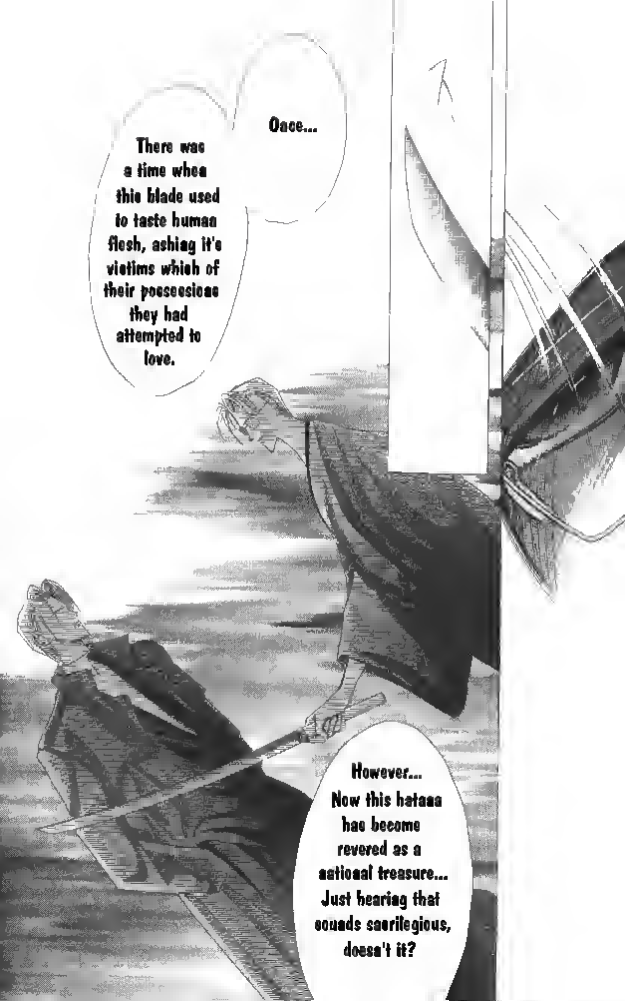
Do you have your own secrete passageway?
Ko-Ji...

I'll be blunt.
You aren't looking for a job are you? If so, I can hire you if you want!
I guess I came at the right time.

Please
take off
your shoes.

Whoever parks this 500CC in front of our house must have the guts!
Get up!
I'll move this car away, bastard!
I'm sure you know the reason why I am here!
There's no need to do that!

Well... I have no idea!
Ah... Is it because I breached your contract with Shibaya?
You gave up the position father gave you. So, are you regretting now?
Huh?
What's this...
Hirose... What's he doing still up at this hour?
You're certainly full of yourself, brother!


Once...
There was a time when this blade used to taste human flesh, ashing it's victims which of their possessions they had attempted to love.
However... Now this katana has become revered as a national treasure... Just hearing that sounds sacrilegious, doesn't it?

Like a...
virgin lost
in sensation...

His body is like a whip; his muscles hard with futile straining.
His skin glowing from drinking in the light of the sun... His indomitable spirit... That wonderful abundance of spirit and physical beauty was absolutely captivating.
...
By looking at his expression, it was like it was the first time for him. But that's impossible right?
Hi hi...
Surprised!

Drip

HIROSE!?
HI...
Before you quit for the night I need Shinagawa's number...
Hirose...
Don't scream, Akihito!

!!
Aren't you going to kill me?
Hah...
What's this?
To kill a person is very easy.
I'm sure you have already set up a trap for me right? If I kill you right now, the cops will be running after me.
And I'm sure you have planed to make me live in the jail for the rest of my life!

I see...
That's why you didn't killed me!
I'm not afraid.
You won't tell anybody about this!
"The Joutou company President Naajo Hirose was stuck down by his little brother Naajo Koji". You will never let such news out!
After hurting me, you'll go to jail for sure!

Is this the end? Was that boy's body so cheap?
That's it?

If I were you, I wouldn't have pulled the knife out.
You're getting old, and you may bleed to death! If you die, it would be too boring. I should have make you suffer more!
UGH..
Hirose!
You're... making... a face...
DAMN!
KOJI YOU BASTARD!
HIROSE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY COMING HERE BASTARD!! THIS HOUSE MAKES NO SENSE!!
AKI-HITO!
ASSHOLE
ATTACK-ING THINGS WITHOUT REASON!!
THEN YOU CAME AND EVERYTHING WENT TO HELL!!
UNTIL YOU CAME THIS HOUSE WAS PEACEFUL!! WE WERE... WE WERE ALL HAPPY!!

BEFORE YOU CAME HERE
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING IN COMING HERE ?!
WHAT DA HELL DID YOU EXPECT TO FIND !! FORGIVENESS ?!
I'LL KILL YOU !!
DID YOU EXPECT HIROSE TO GIVE YOU THAT ...

PLEASE STOP

I WAS BROUGHT UP THE RIGHT WAY
IT WASN'T ALWAYS EASY
AND BECAUSE OF HIM THE MOST I COULD BE WAS A DISGRACE
WH
WH
WHY ?!
YOU'RE THE SECOND SON OF THE NANJO HOUSEHOLD
AND I'M THE ONE
WHO PUT YOU IN THE PLACE YOU HOLD TODAY.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'VE DONE.

I FAILED AT EVERYTHING AND HAD A TALENT FOR SENDING ALL THE ADULTS AROUND ME INTO HYSTERICAL FITS
YOU NEVER LISTENED TO UNDERSTAND MY REASONS I STOOD THERE SCREAMING YOU THOUGHT IT UNPLEASANT A DISTURBANCE IN YOUR PEACEFUL LIVES
HIRO-SE!
HE WANTED PERFECTION HE SAVORED THE TASTE OF MY MISERY IT'S OVER NOW
BECAUSE
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT ALL I HEARD WAS THE CALL OF MY MUSIC
THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF ANY OF THIS
THESE ARE YOUR "REASONS"?

I LEARNED BUDO ONLY BECAUSE THAT MAN MADE ME EVERYDAY; ALWAYS THE SAME WE'RE THE SAME
DRUDGERY
I COULDN'T ESCAPE IT EVEN TO COMPLAIN.
YOU DON'T FIND FAULT IN THAT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MANY TIMES WE'VE BEEN HIT ?
HIROSE-SAMA ?!
PLEASE DON'T COME IN DON'T INTERFERE.
WHA
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ?!
YES SIR
BUT YOU'RE BLEEDING !
SO YOU DON'T ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOUR HUSBAND HUH
SILENCE !
BUT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO LISTEN TO MY REASONS NOW. PLEASE
I COULDN T EVEN BEAR LIVING IN THIS HATEFUL HOUSE. THOSE ARE MY FEELINGS.
EVERYONE AROUND US FEELS THAT TOWARDS OUR NAME. I UNDERSTOOD THAT THEN.

CONFESSIONS OF LOVE WORK BEST WHEN SAID TO THE PERSON HIMSELF
THAT'S RIGHT! I AM WHAT I AM NOW! IF YOU LIKE THIS LIFE AND CAN BEAR THOSE FEELINGS THEN THAT'S YOUR CASE!
DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE!
IT'S ALWAYS HAD GREAT SUCCESS IN YOUR PAST!
ALWAYS - OR ALMOST ALWAYS - DON'T YOU THINK SO?
I WAS MEANT TO MEET HIM! WE WERE DESTINED TO LIVE TOGETHER!!

I WAS NOTHING BUT AN IDIOT BEFORE NOW
I UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM I WAS IN THAT PAST AS WELL AND I WAS THE FIRST CASUALTY
YOU LOVE LIKE THE WAY OF THE SUMO
WITHOUT GRACE AND WITHOUT SUBSTANCE
BUT EVEN WITH ALL THAT I WILL STILL HAVE MY ENDING
WHY DO I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE A BOYFRIEND WAS ABLE TO CURE YOU OF YOUR IMBECILITY
I'M WILLING TO BE AN ACCOMPLICE TO MURDER, SO IT WOULD BE IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS TO CONCERN YOURSELVES NOW
MY— YOU STILL HAVE THAT DAMN SELF-CONFIDENCE

I'M GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH HIM! I'LL LAY DOWN MY VERY LIFE TO PROTECT HIM!! I SEE NOW, JUST HOW INSIGNIFICANT THOSE WORDS ARE!
HE'S THE MOST PRECIOUS THING I OWN!!
BUT THE PERSON I HAVE BECOME THANKS TO HIM, IS JUST AS IMPORTANT!
SO I'LL SIMPLY KILL THAT PERSON!

SO THIS MAKES US EVEN
!!
I'LL JUST KILL MYSELF
FOR THAT PERSON
HIROSE AKIHITO

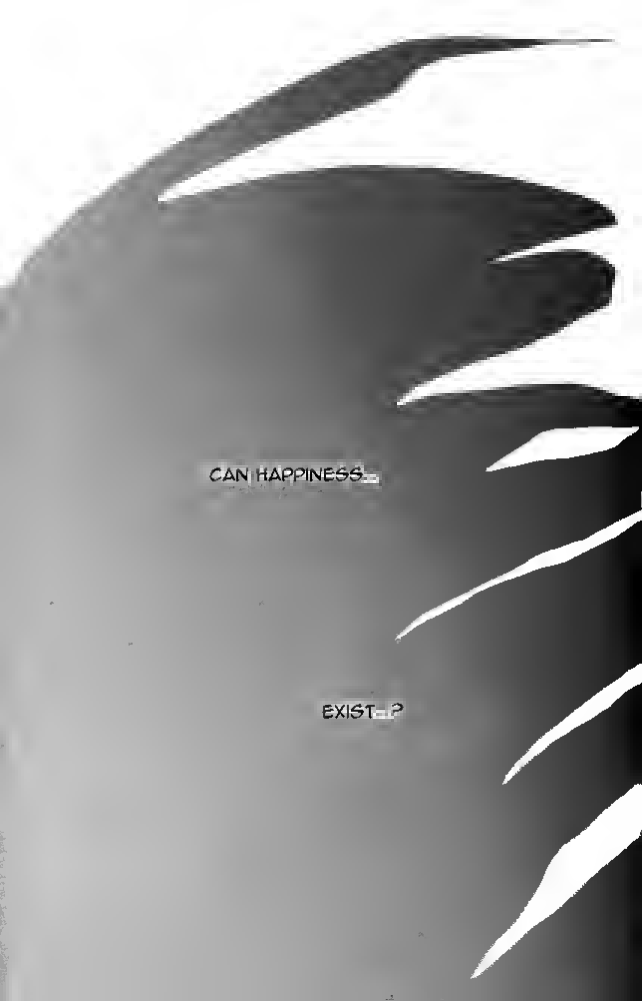
IZUMI...
ONCE AGAIN I'M SURE YOU'RE ANGRY BUT...
I'LL BE HOME SOON

WHAT
I SAID
I LIED

ドン
ヒィ
ヤッ

!!
HI...

*KAMIDANA IS THE NAME FOR THE PRIVATE SHINTO SHRINES WHICH TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HOMES ALL POSSESS.


CAN HAPPINESS...
EXIST...?

YOU TRY TO EXPERIENCE HAPPINESS, BUT IN THE END ALL YOU CAN DO IS LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE

STRUGGLING TO WIN IN A CONSTANT BATTLE WITH YOUR OWN INNER DEMONS, IT MAKES YOU STRONGER BY OPPOSING ADVERSITY AND CHALLENGING IT WITH YOUR OWN HAND

~GO JAPAN~

HAPPINESS ONLY GOES TO THOSE DESERVING IT, THOSE WITH THE COURAGE TO SEEK IT, THOSE WITH THE HOPE TO NEVER FORGET THEIR WISH

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

LESSEE... THERE'S STILL A PROBLEM WITH THAT IDEA

IT'S LIKE THAT EVERYWHERE

JEEZ... WHAT KIND OF SPELL ARE YOU UNDER?

PAH!

HA HA HA HA

I SAID FIND HAPPINESS LOVE TOO.

YOU HAVE TO WORK FOR IT TO COME TO YOU. YOU TAKE PEOPLE FOR GRANTED. YOU CAN'T DO THAT IF YOU WANT THEM TO STAY

HOW CONVENIENT IT IS FOR YOU TO SIT AND WATCH YOUR LIFE GO BY BY JUST RAISING THE JAPANESE FLAG

YOU OWN ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING A PERSON COULD WANT IN THEIR ENTIRE LIFETIME EVEN PEOPLE

"FRENCH FOR "ME"

YOU'RE SUCH A JERK!

YOU CAN ONLY CHANGE THE WORLD YOU LIVE IN, IF YOU HAVE THE DEDICATION, COURAGE AND ASPIRATION

TO HAVE HAPPINESS... IF YOU DIDN'T PUT EVERYTHING YOU HAD INTO ACHIEVING IT, THEN HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO SUCCEED IN BEING ANYTHING OTHER THAN MISERABLE? DON'T YOU GET IT...

YOU CAN'T EXPECT EVERYONE TO BE LIKE HIM -- TO THINK OF THIS LIFE AS THE SOURCE OF UNCONDITIONAL HAPPINESS... YOU CAN'T RESTRICT THE WAY PEOPLE FEEL. WHAT HAPPINESS IS AND WHAT MISERY IS... THEY... CAN'T BE CONFINED TO JUST ONE DEFINITION.

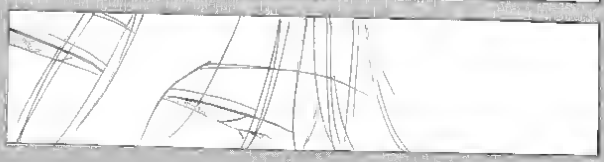
WELL... THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT PATTERNS...

WHAT DO I FEEL? WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?

WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS I SUPPOSE THAT IS, TO LIVE THEIR LIVES, HOWEVER IDEAL THEY MAY BE

YOU WOULD HAVE SUFFERED A BROKEN HEART LONG BEFORE NOW IF NOT FOR THE WAY YOU AVOIDED FALLING IN LOVE

WHAT! IT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU TO JUST LEAVE ME OUT TO DRY!! WHAT NOW!!



HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO GO? WHAT KIND OF DESIRES DO YOU HAVE?
WELL, ALL I WANT IS TO STAY FAITHFUL TO MY OWN DESIRES IN LIFE, BUT
SOMETIMES ALL I WANT TO DO IS SHUDDER WHEN I LOOK FORWARD. WHAT IF THINGS DON'T TURN OUT THE WAY YOU HOPE— WILL YOU REGRET IT?
SO— FIND HAPPINESS ANY WAY YOU CAN. FIND WHAT YOU WANT
EVERYTHING I MEASURED BY MYSELF WAS BLASTED AWAY, AND I JUST STOPPED BELIEVING.
JUST DON'T EVER LET THEM JUDGE YOU
I WANT THAT HAPPINESS—
BECAUSE I— I WANT THAT HAPPINESS— I WANT THAT— I NEVER WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO LOSE HIM.
"LIKE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE—"
IZUMI MAKES ME
—HAPPY

KOJI
...
SMILE
IZUMI...
I WANT TO BE WITH HIM
OUR HAPPINESS
IT'S AS THOUGH I'VE
HAD IT FOREVER
IS IT POSSIBLE TO
FEEL SUCH THINGS
FOR ANOTHER
HUMAN BEING

DUMMY
FOR AS LONG AS YOU NEED ME— FOR AS LONG AS YOU SING TO ME—

I'LL ALWAYS BE RIGHT HERE ...
THANK GOD

IZUMI'S...
LAUGHING...
THANK GOD...

VOLUME 24 "ZETSUAI"

I LOVE YOU...
I WILL SAY IT A MILLION TIMES, A BILLION TIMES...
EMBRACE YOU, KISS YOU... ...WILL NEVER PART FROM YOUR SIDE
SOON I WILL BE WITH YOU AND STAY FOREVER
...TO TELL YOU THAT I LOVE YOU
...AND THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE
THIS IS THE ONLY REASON FOR ME TO EXIST

BECAUSE
I LOVE YOU...
...
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE
IN MY THOUGHTS.
THIS IS THE ONLY REASON
FOR ME TO EXIST.

TRRRRR!
TRRRRR!
TRR!

AH
...
UGN
...
TRRRR!
TRRR
RRR
ズキン...
ズキン!

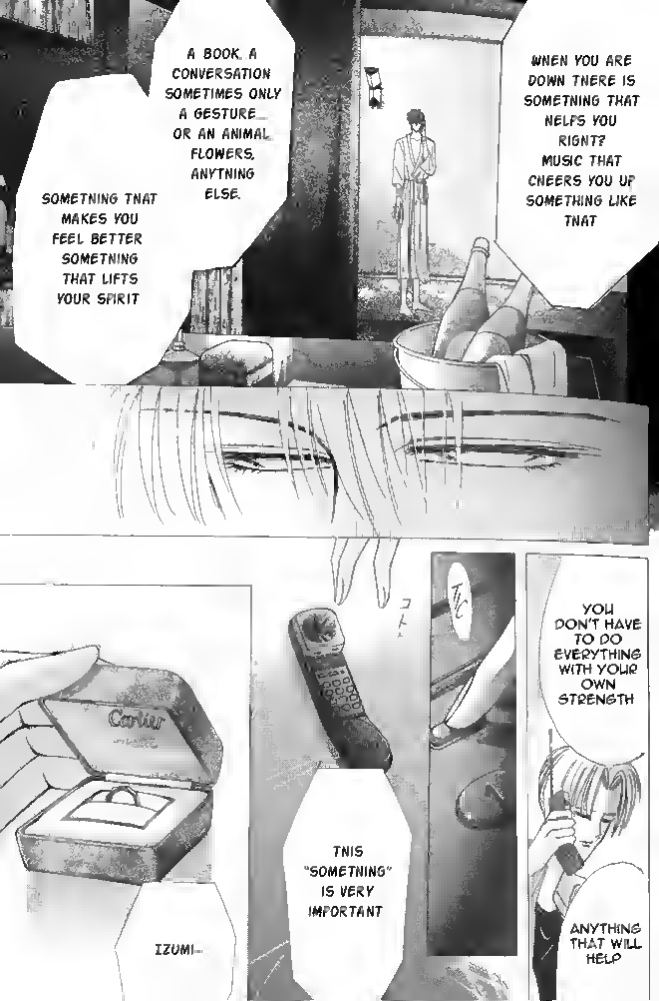
RR

AAH FINALLY!
NOW RISE AND SHINE! WE WERE ALREADY WORRIED
T-T-T-

WHAT'S THE DATE TODAY,?
WELL, THE 26TH. IT'S ALREADY EVENING.
WHAT ARE BOTH OF YOU DOING WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT DATE WE HAVE?
HOW NASTY
WHERE IS KOJI?
WHAT!?
THE 26TH
KO . JI
IZUMI?

HE IS
SLEEPING
NOT LONG AGO
YES
ARE YOU LISTENING ?
IZUMI—
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO.
REALLY ?
HEY, IZUMI?
WE ARE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
THANKS
I'LL KEEP MY FINGERS CROSSED FOR YOU
SOON THE WORLD CUP WILL BE HELD
REALLY

YOU KNOW, IZUMI... PHYSICIANS, LAWYER, POLICEMEN, POLITICIANS... THEY ALL WANT TO WORK FOR YOU...
TAKE YOUR PICK
...AND THEY ALL STAND IN LINE. JUST USE THOSE PEOPLE FOR YOUR AIMS.
BUT NOT LIKE ANOTHER GUY WE KNOW
HE'LL BE MY DEATH SOME DAY
RRR
OK
SMILE
AFTER ALL, WE HAVE TO HELP OURSELVES
YOU CAN RELY ON ME
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING


A BOOK, A CONVERSATION SOMETIMES ONLY A GESTURE... OR AN ANIMAL, FLOWERS, ANYTHING ELSE.
SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER SOMETHING THAT LIFTS YOUR SPIRIT
WHEN YOU ARE DOWN THERE IS SOMETHING THAT HELPS YOU RIGHT? MUSIC THAT CHEERS YOU UP SOMETHING LIKE THAT
Cartier
IZUMI-
THIS "SOMETHING" IS VERY IMPORTANT
プ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WITH YOUR OWN STRENGTH
ANYTHING THAT WILL HELP

ARE YOU HAPPY... AT THE MOMENT?
IF I SHOULD EVER DECEIVE YOU
THEN KILL ME
NONSENSE!
FOR SOMEONE WHO BETRAYED ME?
WHY SHOULD I DO SUCH A THING

...THEN DO IT AFTERWARDS!
YOU WILL KILL ME, ALRIGHT?
SPARE ME TO SEE IT HAPPEN
IF YOU SHOULD EVER THINK ABOUT BETRAYING ME
I WOULD DO THE SAME IF IT WAS BE THE OTHER WAY ROUND

ALRIGHT
SO IN THE MOMENT OF HIGHEST ECSTASY
IN THE STATE OF ABSOLUTE BLISS
...
I
WILL
KILL
YOU.

SO YOU WILL NOT SUFFER.
SHIBUYA
I AM SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU
EH?

I AM HERE...
DON'T WORRY
FROM NOW ON I WILL LOOK AFTER HIM
I DON'T THINK ABOUT RUNNING AWAY FROM HIM ANYMORE.
I AM THE ONE HOLDING HIS LIFE IN MY HANDS.

I WON'T MOVE A BIT FROM HERE !
...

DON'T ASK.
SO YOU... TRUST HIM?
TRUSTING HIM OR NOT...
I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER THIS RIGHT NOW. IT MIGHT BE A LIE
THAT'S MY AFFAIR. ...AND IT'S NOBODY ELSE'S BUSINESS
IZUMI.

BECAUSE OF YOU, HE FOUND HIMSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME
BEFORE YOU MET KOJI HE WAS ONLY SCUM
AND HE WOULD HAVE STAYED A USELESS BUNGLER WITH THAT FACE AND THAT CHARACTER
YOU FILL HIM WITH LOVE AND HURT HIM
HE WOULD HAVE NEVER STARTED SINGING IF WE HADN'T MET
WHY DO YOU THINK I'VE STAYED BY HIS SIDE ALL THAT TIME?
KOJI NANJO WOULD BE NOTHING WITHOUT IZUMI - ONLY DECORATION

I WILL NOT BECOME A DOCTOR BECAUSE MY FAMILY WANTS ME TO—
NOT EVEN TO CURE THE DISEASE THAT KILLED MY MOTHER AND SISTER
ONCE I BLAMED THE DOCTORS FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO HELP
IT WOULD HAVE DRIVEN ME CRAZY
TO MEET YOU.
'CAUSE MY SISTER— ASKED FOR IT

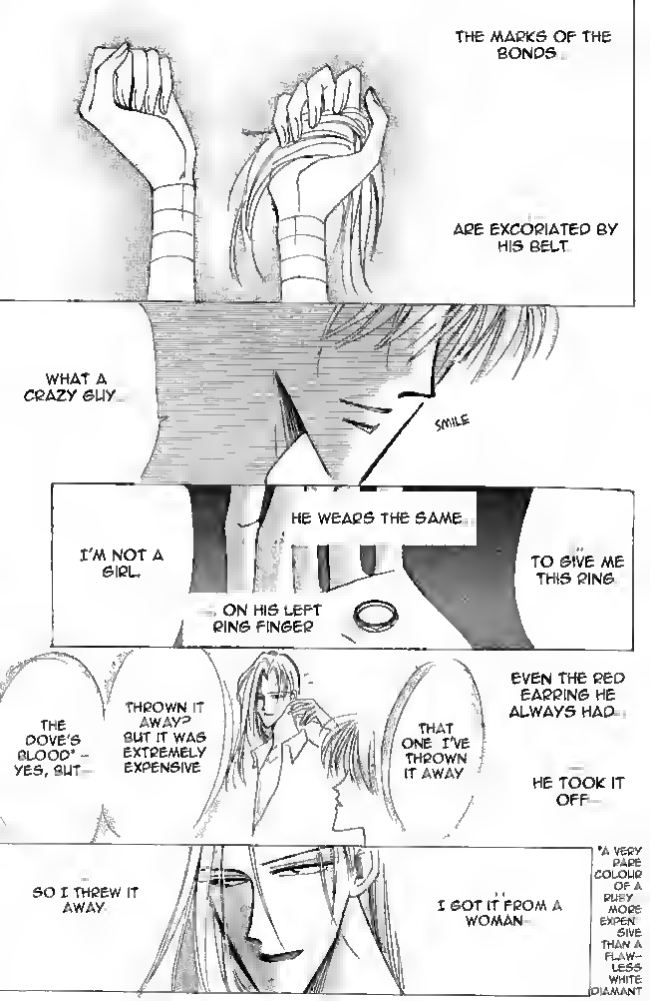
I OWE MY LIFE TO THE FACT THAT I WANTED VINDICATION AGAINST MEDICINE.
CALL IT STUBBORN OR PITIFUL.
I LIVE BECAUSE I AM POSSESSED
POSSESSED BY MY OWN PAST
IN THE END IT GETS EVERYONE.
IN MY WHOLE LIFE I NEVER ASKED FOR ANYTHING IF THIS HOPE WILL BE DESTROYED
THIS MEMORY WILL NEVER FADE. ONE WILL EITHER GLORIFY IT OR DESPAIR
YOU CANNOT OVERCOME THIS FEELING. IT'S FUTILE.

I MOURNED AND DIDN'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT
IT WAS LIKE A PART OF MY BODY – I COULDN'T CUT IT OUT
I KNEW THAT THERE IS NO GOD
PLEASE, SAVE HER I'LL DO EVERY-THING YOU WANT BUT PLEASE SAVE HER FROM DEATH
BUT IN THE END I PRAYED TO HIM
I DID SO MANY POINTLESS THINGS EVEN IF I KNEW THAT THEY WERE POINTLESS

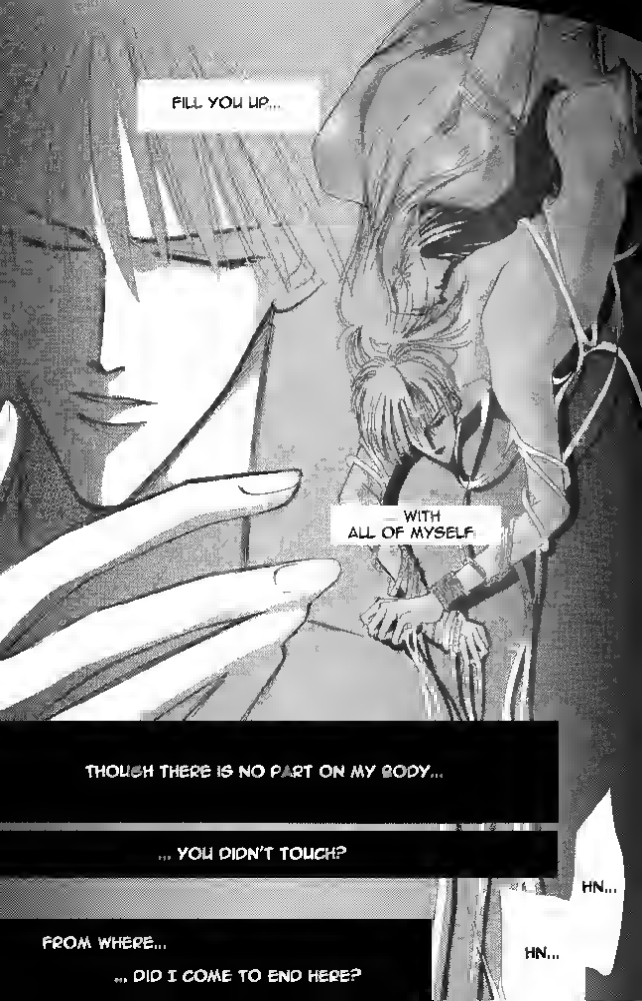
YOU ARE A GOOD PERSON
SHIBUYA ...?
PRETEND YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A THING
IT'S EMBARRAS-SING – IT WON'T GO ANY FURTHER 'KAY?
MUST HAVE BEEN UP TOO LONG
OH I DIGRESS
WHY DID I START WITH THIS ...?

NONSENSE!
NO WAY—
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING?
YOU ARE A GOOD GUY
YOU GOT ME AND KOJI OUT OF EVERYTHING YOUR WORRIES ARE HONEST
YOUR SISTER MUST HAVE LOVED YOU VERY MUCH
YOU ARE REALLY UNIQUE I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOU AS A FRIEND
THANK YOU...
HA...

YOU ARE REALLY TOO MUCH FOR ME
IZUMI...
MY WHOLE BODY ACHES...
TAC
TAC
THE MARKS...
...GOT BIGGER...
THE TRACES OF THE OTHERS...
...KOJI FOUND ALL OF THEM AND COVERED THEM WITH HIS OWN ONES


THE MARKS OF THE BONDS
ARE EXCORIATED BY HIS BELT
WHAT A CRAZY GUY
SMILE
I'M NOT A GIRL
HE WEARS THE SAME
ON HIS LEFT RING FINGER
TO GIVE ME THIS RING
EVEN THE RED EARRING HE ALWAYS HAD
HE TOOK IT OFF
THE DOVE'S BLOOD* – YES, BUT
THROWN IT AWAY? BUT IT WAS EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE
THAT ONE I'VE THROWN IT AWAY
SO I THREW IT AWAY
I GOT IT FROM A WOMAN
*A VERY RARE COLOUR OF A RUBY MORE EXPENSIVE THAN A FLAWLESS WHITE DIAMANT

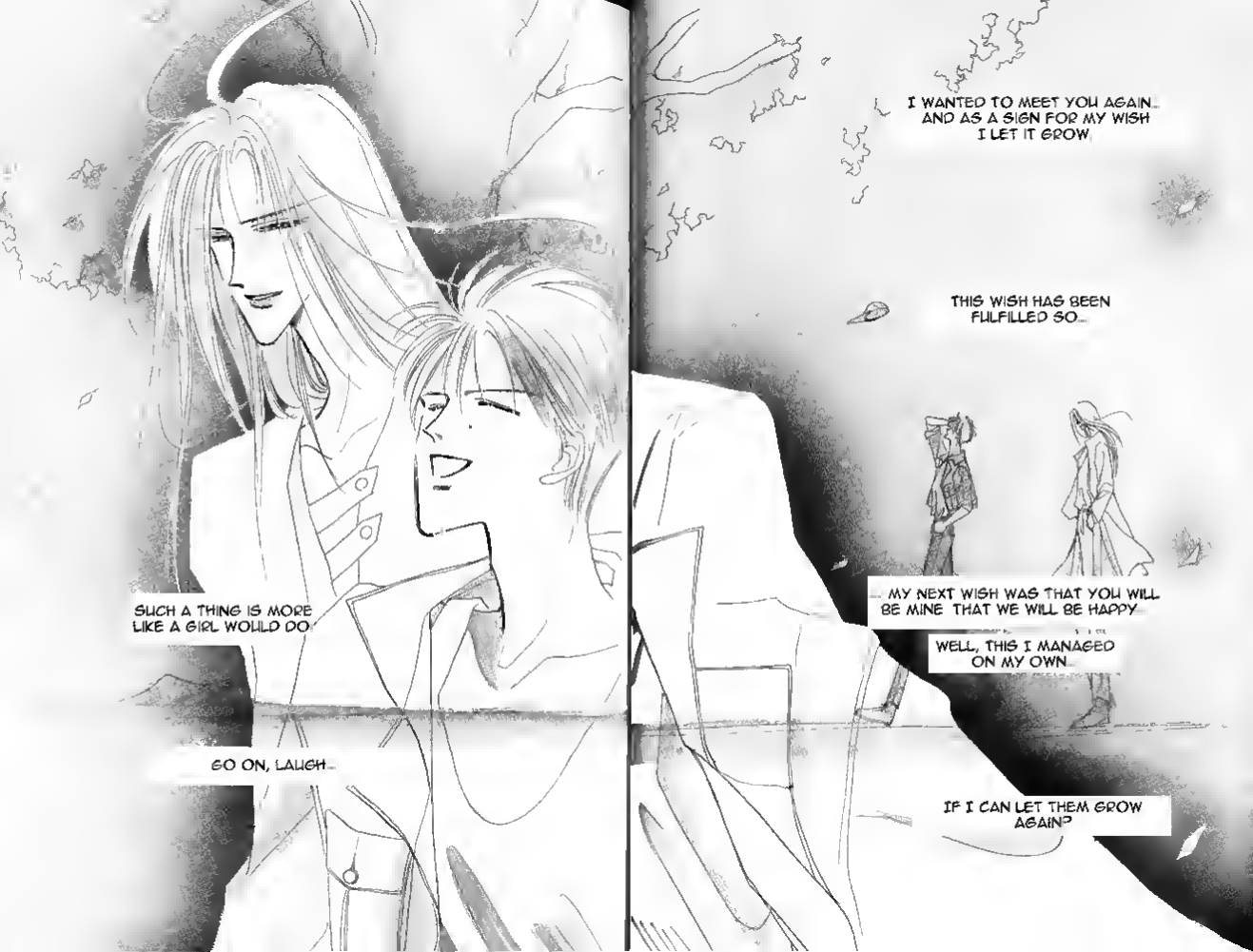
THE SWEET SCENT OF WOMEN HE HAD ALWAYS AROUND HIM SO ONE BEGAN TO THINK THAT IT IS HIS OWN
WHEN DID IT CHANGE INTO THE AROMA OF CIGARETTE SMOKE?
GIVE ME YOUR BLOOD
"COUGH"
"PHLI"
I WILL LET IT BE MADE INTO A NEW STONE
"COUGH"
I WANT TO PIERCE YOUR EAR
AND THEN FILL IT WITH MY BLOOD


FILL YOU UP...
WITH ALL OF MYSELF.
THOUGH THERE IS NO PART ON MY BODY...
... YOU DIDN'T TOUCH?
HN...
FROM WHERE...
... DID I COME TO END HERE?
HN...

I'LL BE BACK SOON
MY BODY
STAY HERE LET NOBODY IN
I CAN NOTICE KOJI'S SCENT ON IT
I WILL BUY A CHAIN AND THEN I'LL ENCHAIN YOU
... AND TEAR YOU TO THE GROUND
D...
DAMN ...
HNG
THE TOUCH OF YOUR HANDS IS BURNED INTO MY MEMORY YOUR HOT BREATH IS STILL IN MY EAR
HE REPEATS THIS OVER AND OVER LIKE A MAD MACHINE AND HAMMERS IT INTO MY BRAIN.
I WANT YOU .
I LOVE YOU,
I LOVE YOU!
THE HARD, FORCEFUL RHYTHM, THE OVERLAPPING SOUND OF OUR HEARTS

I WILL NEVER ...
... FORGIVE YOU.
DARN... "ASTA...
WITH THESE HANDS I TAKE WHAT I WANT. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW! EVEN IF I HAVE TO SNATCH IT FROM HIM!
WHEN IT SHATTERS INTO PIECES... TEARS APART AND VANISHES WITHOUT TRACE... UNTIL HE LOOSES EVERYTHING AND ONLY A EMPTY SHELL IS LEFT.
SO VIOLENT THAT IT HEATENS THE BLOOD, LIKE A WAVE - RETURNING OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
THAT YOU ARE ... DOING THIS TO ME !

KO...
JI...
OH, PLEASE...
THIS HAIR...
IZUMI.
COME BACK ...
KO...
JI...
KO...
KOJI...
KO... JI...
ANO
WHAT IS LEFT
KO
IS
KOJI...!


I WANTED TO MEET YOU AGAIN...
AND AS A SIGN FOR MY WISH
I LET IT GROW
THIS WISH HAS BEEN
FULFILLED SO...
... MY NEXT WISH WAS THAT YOU WILL
BE MINE THAT WE WILL BE HAPPY
WELL, THIS I MANAGED
ON MY OWN...
IF I CAN LET THEM GROW
AGAIN?
SUCH A THING IS MORE
LIKE A GIRL WOULD DO
GO ON, LAUGH...

..LAUGH!
YOU CAN
HNGH!
IT...
HURTS
WHAT
IS THIS
?

MY LEFT ARM
HURTS SO MUCH!

MY LEFT SIDE
SNATCH
IZUMI!
IZUMI!?
WHY IS THE SAFETY CHAIN LOCKED?
I KNOW THAT YOU ARE HOME! IT'S ME OPEN THE DOOR!

IZUMI!
COME ON OPEN UP!
AFTER THAT CALL YESTERDAY I THOUGHT THAT I SHOULD COME AROUND
ONE CAR IS MISSING IN THE CAR PARK. WHEN DID HE LEAVE?
WHAT'S UP HERE?
WHY HAVEN'T YOU TOLD ME?
DID HE GIVE YOU DRUGS?
HE WASN'T HERE YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
BANDAGES...?
YOU TOLD ME YOU WOULD LOOK AFTER HIM
WHAT IS HE HOLDING?
WHAT IS HE THINKING?
AND EVEN IF I HAVE TO DRAG HIM BACK I—
HAIR?
YOU COULDN'T HAVE SLEPT MORE THAN 24 HOURS
THAT MEANS HE WASN'T HERE FOR TWO NIGHTS
IZUMI...?

NO
HE HAS TO COME BACK ON HIS OWN
HE PROMISED ME
IZUMI! THAT YOU ARE BACK UNHARMED SHOWS THAT THERE IS SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON
PROMISED ..?

IF HE WANTED TO TEAR YOU APART, HE COULD HAVE DONE IT SO EASILY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY
BUT THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGIN-NING
IF HE (HIROSE) WANTED TO STOP THE WHOLE AFFAIR, HE JUST COULD HAVE LET YOU VANISH
AND THAT ERI HAS VANISHED
KUNIHIDE REMAINS SILENT
FIRST I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A ACT OF REVENGE ON KOJI
BUT IT ISN'T
THAT WAS JUST AN EXCUSE - THERE IS SOMETHING BIGGER
DON'T DECLARE ME DEAD THAT FAST
PLEASE PERHAPS YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP HIM
DAMN! I'M WORRYING TOO MUCH
HE'S TOO SMART FOR THAT. SOMETHING IS GOING ON HERE

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ME - HERE I AM

IZUMI...
KO... JI!!
TWITCH
ホー
PLEASE EXCUSE ME I AM LATE WILL YOU OPEN ?
KO... WAIT A SEC...

WAIT A SEC! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?
WHAT'S WITH YOUR ARM ..?
I'VE GOT TO KEEP IT STILL FOR A WHILE-
HURTS LIKE HELL - DON'T SHAKE ME TOO MUCH
WAIT! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?
WHY ...?!
KO-

IF I HADN'T DONE THIS IT WOULD HAVE NEVER STOPPED
KATSUMI...
I WISH...
THIS IS MY PROBLEM
I HAD BEEN ABLE TO SING MORE FOR MADOKA

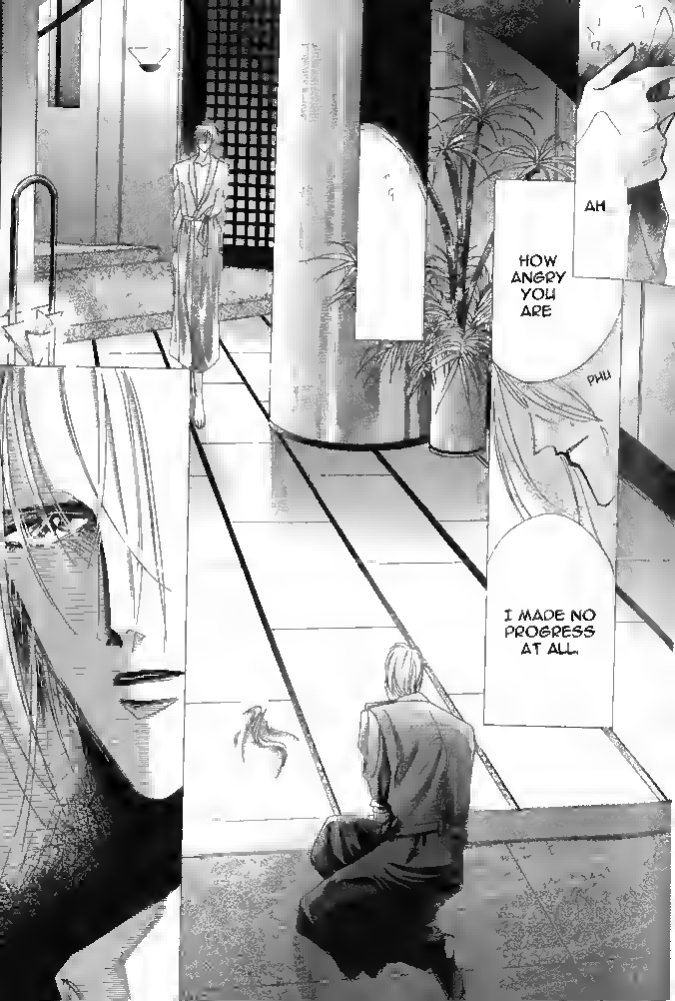
WH
YOU BLOO-DY BAST-ARD!
WHY... DO YOU HAVE TO SAY THIS NOW?

WHAT'S UP WITH THEM ?
HOW CAN THEY...
DAMN! JUST GET BACK INTO REALITY!
HN...
ARE BOTH OF YOU PLAIN STUPID OR JUST TOO HONEST ?

AH...
AAH ...
IS THAT ...
...YOUR DOING?

HE WAS SURPRISED
SAID "HOW STUPID OF YOU"
SO YOU DID THIS TO YOURSELF WITH A KATANA?
I SNEAKED OUT OF THE HOSPITAL BUT IT TOOK A WHILE TOO MUCH BLOOD LOSS I THINK
PROOFED YOUR INABILITY TO HOLD A SWORD - CUT OFF YOUR SWORD ARM AND SHOCKED THEM WITH THE EXTENT OF YOUR STUPIDITY
AND BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESTORE THE ARM YOU CAME HOME THE WAY YOU ARE ?

IZUMI.
YOU DID THIS TO YOURSELF. WHY SHOULD I BE ANGRY?
IF IT COULD BE UNDONE
IT WOULD MAKE NO SENSE. I KNOW THAT YOU ARE ANGRY NOW
YOU ALWAYS THINK UP STUFF LIKE THIS IN YOUR SICK BRAIN. DO YOU THINK, I DON'T KNOW THIS?


AH
HOW ANGRY YOU ARE
PHU
I MADE NO PROGRESS AT ALL.

IZUMI..?!

さら!
I HAVE A DIFFERENT BLOOD GROUP
BUT WHO CARES
EH..?
YOU... DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BLOOD?

THEN
TAKE
MINE.

IZUMI
...!!

UNGH
...
WH...!

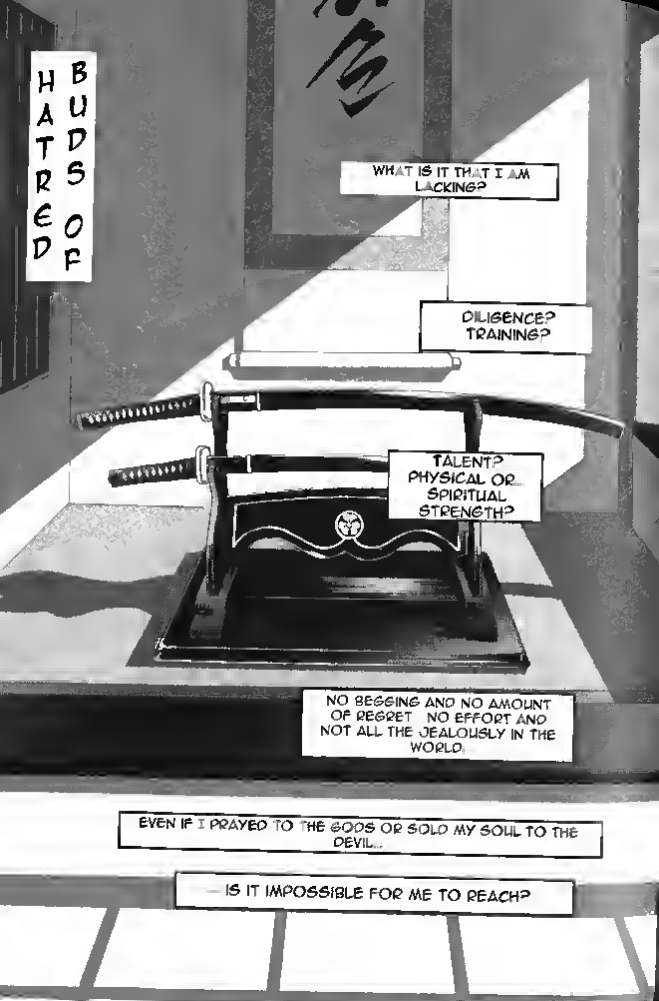
AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER ...
... MY LEFT SIDE HAS HURT.

DRIP
BUT FROM NOW ON IT WILL STOP TO HURT.
ON MY LEFT HAND
THE FINGER THAT IS CLOSEST TO THE HEART, BORE AN OLD, DEEP WOUND.
*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE. THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK OF IS THAT IT MIGHT REFER TO THE RING KOJI WAS WEARING. BUT THEN AGAIN, IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING ELSE.

IT'S NOT OVER YET
COME

LET YOUR
HAIR GROW

I WILL
TAKE YOU
IN MY
ARMS.


BUDS OF HATRED
WHAT IS IT THAT I AM LACKING?
DILIGENCE? TRAINING?
TALENT? PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH?
NO BEGGING AND NO AMOUNT OF REGRET NO EFFORT AND NOT ALL THE JEALOUSLY IN THE WORLD
EVEN IF I PRAYED TO THE GODS OR SOLD MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL...
—IS IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO REACH?

ZETSUAI EXTRA
華冤断章
BUDS OF HATRED
YOUR WORDS ARE ECHOING IN MY HEAD. I CAN'T BANISH THEM
"THE DILIGENCE OF AN AVERAGE STUDENT ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM A MASTER."
"EVEN NOT IF IT RIVALED THAT OF A HUNDRED PEOPLE. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A NATURAL."

UNTIL HIS 30TH BIRTHDAY FATHER HAD DEDICATED HIS WHOLE LIFE TO THE WAY OF THE SWORD WHEN HE MARRIED A DAUGHTER FROM A GOOD FAMILY
HE DID IT TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE SCHOOL
MY FATHER, WHO UP TO THEN HAD THOUGHT OF NOTHING BUT KENDO, RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN HEIR HE MARRIED AND FATHERED A CHILD
HIS FIRST WIFE LOST HER LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR THAT OF HER CHILD
SHE WAS SAID TO BE A BEAUTIFUL, PEACEFUL PERSON.

7
IS AKIHITO ?
GOOD MORNING, HIROSE-SAMA
I'M LEAVING, MOTHER
TOKU-NAGA-SAN IS TAKING CARE OF HIM
GOOD MORNING, KURAUCHI
HE PROBABLY SLEPT IN AGAIN HE'LL NEVER CHANGE
IT'S ALL RIGHT I'LL GO AND SEE HIM

NO!!
YOU'RE ANNOYING! I WANT TO SLEEP!
I WON'T GO TO SCHOOL! I AM IN PAIN!
NO, I DON'T WANT TO!
HIROSE!
WE ARE LATE HURRY UP!
AKIHITO
BUT AKIHITO-SAMA
TOKUNAGA, PACK HIS THINGS I WILL DRESS HIM IN THE CAR
YES
BUT HIRO-SE
SINCE TWO WEEKS...
COME ON, WE ARE LEAVING.

... I HAVE A SECOND BROTHER, 15 YEARS YOUNGER THAN MYSELF.
FATHER IS CRAZY ABOUT HIM!
THEY ARE STICKING TOGETHER ALL DAY LONG.
HE SEEMS TO HAVE POTENTIAL
NOW LIFT THE RIGHT ARM
THAT STUPID BRAT? HE IS SUPPOSED TO BELONG TO US?
IMPERTINENT AS HE IS AREN'T YOU FED UP WITH HIM, TOO?
DON'T TALK THAT WAY!
BUT!
FATHER TOOK HIM IN
SO HE IS FAMILY

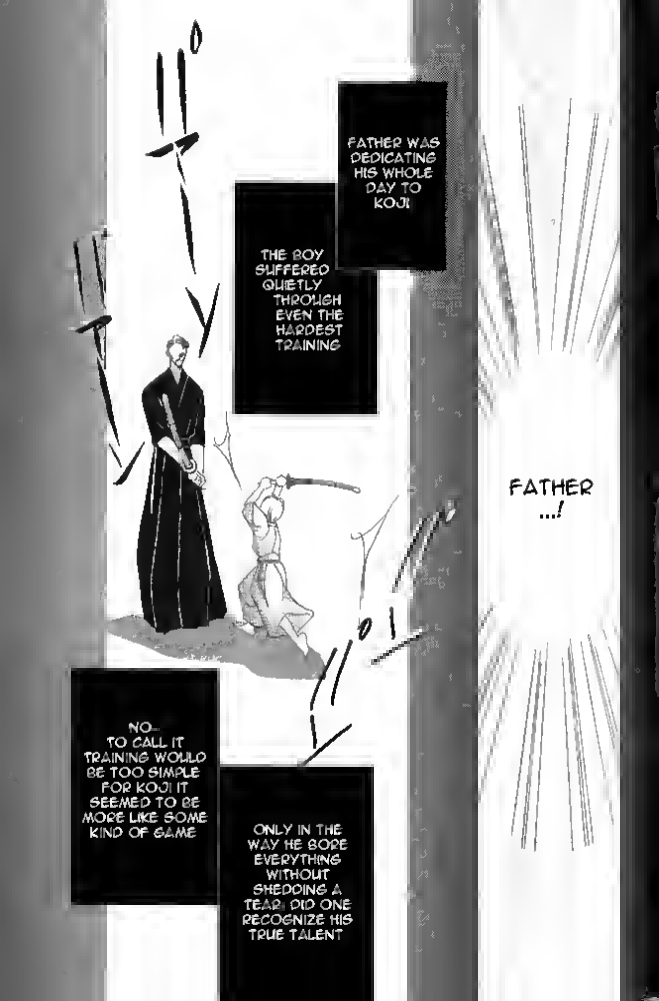
ABOUT YESTERDAY THAT WAS JUST A FLUKE HIT
PULL
SHORTLY AFTER KOJI ARRIVED F...THER'S SECOND WIFE MADE A SCENE ...
...AND LEFT OUR HOUSE ON THE VERY S...ME D...Y. SHE LEFT KIHITO BEHIND.
HE HAD JUST TURNED 10
YES. HE IS STILL 10 YEARS OLD. AND THOUGH HE HAD BEEN TRAINED BY THE SOVEREIGN OF THE SHINKAGERU JOTO SCHOOL, OUR FATHER, FOR 8 YEARS...
.....THIS MORNING.....

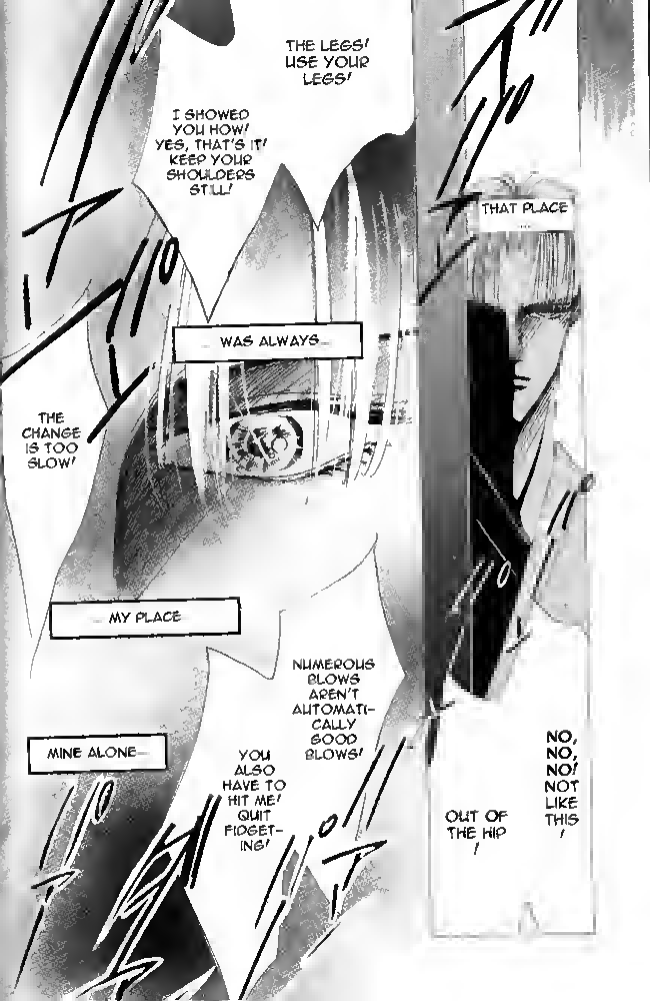
YES, JUST A FLUKE HIT
OF COURSE SO DON'T WORRY
MY BROTHER LOST TO A BOY WHO HAD TOUCHED A SWORD THE FIRST TIME THREE DAYS AGO
BE A LITTLE NICER WITH HIM YOU'RE HIS BIG BROTHER NOW
FURTHER-MORE, KOJI IS STILL SMALL

DON'T WORRY...
POOR LITTLE ONE...
WE HAD KNOWN RIGHT FROM THE START THAT HE HAD NO TALENT.
YOUR MOTHER WILL COME BACK SOON
ONLY TEN DAYS OF TRAINING.
HE'D NEVER BE MORE THAN AVERAGE. STILL, AKIHITO HAD NEVER LOST AGAINST SOMEBODY OF HIS OWN AGE.
BUT ONLY IF YOU QUIT CRYING NOW
AGAINST A BABY OF THREE YEARS.

AT THE AGE OF THREE BRAIN-CELLS SHOW HEIGHTENED ACTIVITY...
IT IS POSSIBLE FOR EXCEPTIONAL TALENTS TO SURFACE IN THAT PHASE
GULP!
CHILDREN PEOPLE TAKE FOR A GENIUS IN CERTAIN AREAS LOOSE THEIR SPECIAL ABILITIES AT THE AGE OF 5 BECAUSE OF THE RADICAL DYING OF CELLS ...
AND ARE NOTHING BUT ORDINARY CHILDREN
AND HE IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE THREE YEARS OLD ...?!

HE IS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE AS WELL.
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THERE IS NOBODY WHO IS BETTER WITH A SWORD THAN I AM
I KNOW ALL THE TECHNIQUES, TRICKS AND THEORIES AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL
THERE IS NOBODY
HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR FATHER'S SPORT IS NOTHING
OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
WHO WOULDN'T ADORE SUCH A FATHER?
WHO COULD TAKE MY PLACE
HEHE!
YES!
THERE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF
AM I NOT RIGHT—? FATHER?


FATHER WAS DEDICATING HIS WHOLE DAY TO KOJI
THE BOY SUFFERED QUIETLY THROUGH EVEN THE HARDEST TRAINING
FATHER ...!
NO- TO CALL IT TRAINING WOULD BE TOO SIMPLE FOR KOJI IT SEEMED TO BE MORE LIKE SOME KIND OF GAME
ONLY IN THE WAY HE BORE EVERYTHING WITHOUT SHEDDING A TEAR, DID ONE RECOGNIZE HIS TRUE TALENT


THE LEGS! USE YOUR LEGS!
I SHOWED YOU HOW! YES, THAT'S IT! KEEP YOUR SHOULDERS STILL!
THAT PLACE
WAS ALWAYS
THE CHANGE IS TOO SLOW!
MY PLACE
NUMEROUS BLOWS AREN'T AUTOMATICALLY GOOD BLOWS!
MINE ALONE
YOU ALSO HAVE TO HIT ME! QUIT FIDGETING!
NO, NO, NO! NOT LIKE THIS!
OUT OF THE HIP!

HIROSE, SOME DAY YOU WILL SURELY BRING FAME AND HONOR TO THE JOTO SCHOOL
NEVER NEGLECT YOUR TRAINING
YOU ARE A CHILD OF MY HOUSE THE FIRST-BORN SON OF MY BLOOD AND THE LEGITIMATE HEIR OF THE SCHOOL
AND BECOME JUST LIKE YOU!
I WILL PROVE THAT I AM WORTHY
IT IS MY DREAM!
YES, FATHER!
YES MY SON WILL BE A GREAT SWORD MASTER
THAT'S MY HIROSE!

THAT'S MY
はっ
FATHER ...!

HE IS UNCONSCIOUS SPILL WATER ON HIM AND BRING HIM INTO HIS ROOM
BUT...
FATHER!
HE'S STILL A LITTLE CHILD
IS ALL THAT HARD TRAINING REALLY NECESSARY?
HE DOESN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE ALL DAY LONG...
A LITTLE CHILD...? THAT ONE IS NO CHILD
DON'T YOU SEE IT, HIROSE?

HE IS A GENIUS!
HE IS THE TRUE HEIR I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

AM I ?
KOJI ...
AND WHAT
HE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR?

KOJI?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
SUCH A SMALL BODY...
KOJI?
MAYBE IF I JUST LEFT HIM HERE HE WOULD DIE?
IF I JUST— LEFT HIM HERE
ぱちっ

むくっ
KOJI!
NOT SO FAST!
...
ぐい
YOU'RE LOOKING BAD
I'LL GO AND FETCH KAYANO HE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
HEY, KOJI?!
DON'T BE SO STUBBORN! IF THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG...
ヒョコ
ヒョコ
OUCH, OUCH, OUCH!

STUPID OLD GOAT!
BLA BLA BLA
I'LL SPLIT HIS SKULL
SO THAT HIS BRAINS COME RUNNING OUT OF HIS ASS.
WHAT ?!
'BRAINS OUT OF HIS ASS' ?!
SPLIT HIS SKULL ?
HE CALLS A BUDO-MASTER AN 'OLD GOAT' ?!
DAMMIT!

A NATURAL? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN ANYWAY?
HA...
HA, HA
AND THAT BOY IS SUPPOSED TO DEFEAT ME, FATHER?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I WAS A PLANNED CHILD, BORN TO CARRY ON THE FAMILY NAME.
YOUR STYLE IS UNBEARABLE!
HA, HA, HA!
MY WHOLE LIFE I HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING TO LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS
I HAVE TRUST IN MYSELF.
EVERYBODY ELSE RECOGNIZES MY ABILITIES
YOU ARE GOING TO BE A WONDERFUL 13TH SOVEREIGN!
AND YOU SAID SO YOURSELF! "YOU ARE MY PRIDE!" AND
AND ALSO 'THAT'S MY HIROSE...!"

HIROSE
♥
HM
A FEAST FOR THE EYES!
HE'S FATHER'S HEIR AFTER ALL
HE'S COOL!
GREAT!
WHY, OF COURSE!

ヒュッ

HMPF!
"CLAP CLAP"
MARVELOUS!
WHAT A SIGHT!
MANY THANKS, SUGISUGAWA-SENSEI
THE JOTO-SCHOOL CAN REST ASSURED, CAN IT NOT?
YOU ARE VERY KIND
IF OUR STUDENTS WERE AS GOOD
WE WOULD ALSO HAVE AN HEIR
NOBODY IS AS GOOD WITH THE SWORD AS HE IS
IT'S BEYOND QUESTION HIROSE IS GOING TO BE THE NEW MASTER

FAMILY TRADITION DICTATED THAT AT THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY YEAR OUR YOUNG MEN MAKE THEIR DEBUT WITH THE SWORD IN FRONT OF THE GATHERED RELATIVES
SEE THAT NEXT YEAR YOU DON'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES!
SURE!
YES IT WAS
THAT WAS GREAT, HIROSE!
THE PRESTIGE OF BEING THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY - SOMETHING THEIR FATHERS HAD FAILED TO ACHIEVE
AT THEIR TIME AND THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONALLY OPERATING JOTO-COMPANY
BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE
NOBODY IS AS GOOD AS I AM
TALKING ABOUT IT
THERE IS ONE MORE DEBUTANT
IT WAS THE TIME IN WHICH THE RIVALRIES BETWEEN MY FATHER'S 7 BROTHERS REACHED THEIR CLIMAX
ALL OF THEM TOGETHER HAD 10 SONS AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM HOPED TO INHERIT THE JOTO-SCHOOL
WELL, HE IS STILL AN UNPOLISHED BEGINNER
NOBODY
OH, WHO IS IT?

MY THIRD SON, KOJI.
WELL...
ざわさわ
THIRD? SINCE WHEN?
IMPRESSIVE...
HOW IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ALL THREE CHILDREN TO HAVE SUCH BEAUTIFUL FACES...
IT IS A LONG STORY...

ざわ…
HIROSE!
BE HIS OPPONENT
I…
I'M SUPPOSED TO?
THAT'S RIGHT
FATHER! I—I AM GOING TO DO IT!
HIROSE IS FAR TOO BIG FOR HIM!
ぱん
スッ
HIROSE
NO I WANT IT TO BE HIROSE

WHY?

THAT AURA...! HOW CONCEITED
.....
!!
"SMIRK"

...AND THE PERFECT STAGE...
FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF MY NIGHTMARE
IT WAS NOTHING
BUT AN ORDINARY MATCH BETWEEN SWORDSMEN

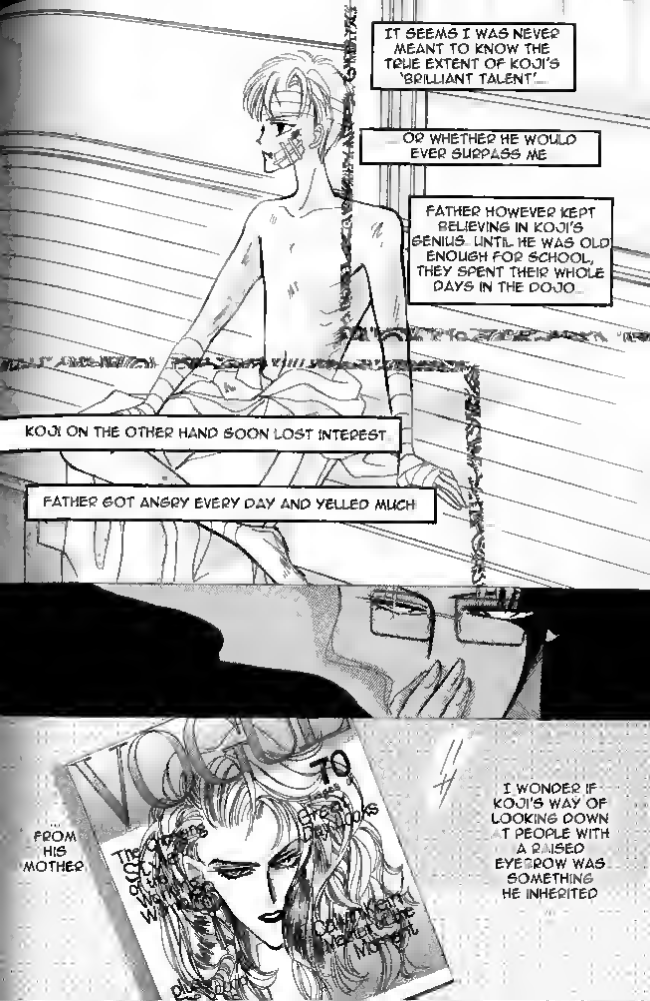
FATHER...
...
WAS I REALLY THAT USELESS TO YOU?

ヒュ
ヒュ
ヒュ

HIROSE-SAMA!!
KURAUCHI ...?
!!
YOU ARE HARMING YOUR BODY BY REMAINING OUT IN THE COLD!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING?
I SAW YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE AND...
SO SINCE TODAY, IT IS?
TODAY?! DOES THAT MEAN THAT EVERY NIGHT YOU HAVE?!
IT'S ALREADY 3 AM TRAINING STARTS AT 5 AM! WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING?!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW
WHY HAVEN'T YOU TOLD ME ABOUT IT?
HIROSE-SAMA ...!

AM I ALLOWED TO STAY ?
YES
DON'T TELL ANYBODY
IT IS ALRIGHT I LIKE DOING THIS.
DO I LOOK LIKE I AM ABOUT TO COLLAPSE ?
NO!!
THEN STAY!

IT WAS
TAS
TAS
THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME THAT I AND KOJI CROSSED SWORDS
TAS
TAS
AM I UNDER-STOOD?
BUT DON'T DO ANYTHING BUT WATCH I CAN GET UP ON MY OWN!
YES!


IT SEEMS I WAS NEVER MEANT TO KNOW THE TRUE EXTENT OF KOJI'S 'BRILLIANT TALENT'—
...OR WHETHER HE WOULD EVER SURPASS ME
FATHER HOWEVER KEPT BELIEVING IN KOJI'S GENIUS. UNTIL HE WAS OLD ENOUGH FOR SCHOOL, THEY SPENT THEIR WHOLE DAYS IN THE DOJO...
KOJI ON THE OTHER HAND SOON LOST INTEREST
FATHER GOT ANGRY EVERY DAY AND YELLED MUCH
...FROM HIS MOTHER
I WONDER IF KOJI'S WAY OF LOOKING DOWN T PEOPLE WITH A RAISED EYEBROW WAS SOMETHING HE INHERITED

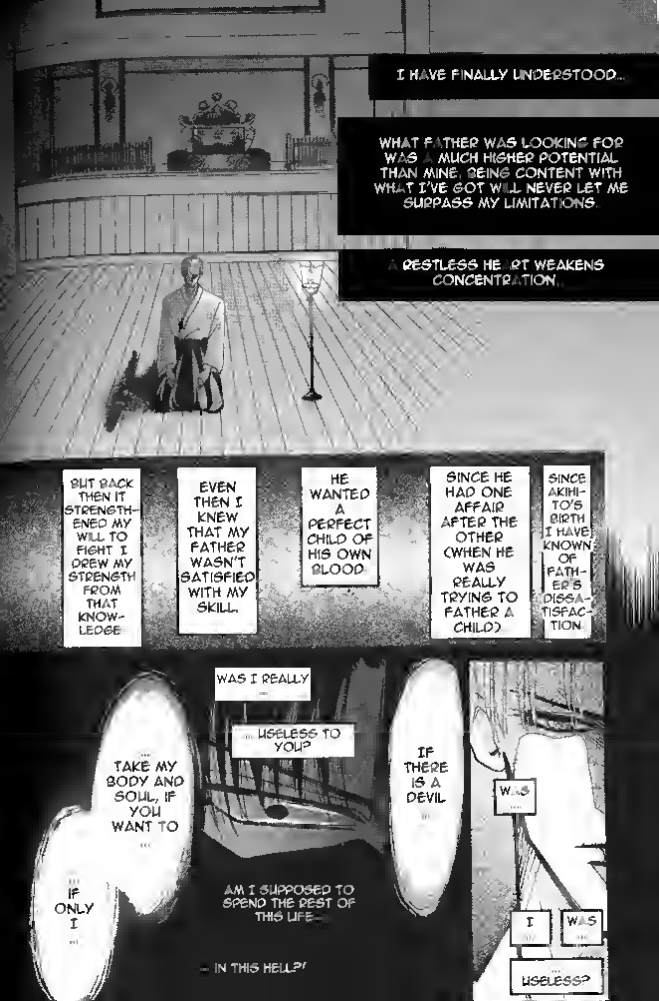
THAT IDIOT!
HOW CAN HE WASTE HIS TALENT LIKE THIS ?!
FATHER
I CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE
BUT WHAT IS IT TO ME ?
FATHER—
KOJI'S EXISTENCE WASN'T THE PROBLEM
THE PROBLEM WAS THE WORTH OF MY OWN EXISTENCE
IT WASN'T THAT I WAS JEALOUS OF KOJI'S TALENT OR HATED HIM FOR IT.
PLEASE TRAIN ME
WE HAVEN'T SPARRED FOR A LONG TIME
KOJI!
WHERE ARE YOU ?!
SUCH VULGAR SENTIMENTS—
FATHER
GO BACK AND LOOK AGAIN!
AND DON'T COME BACK BEFORE YOU HAVE FOUND HIM!
— WERE BENEATH ME

HOW CAN I KILL HIM ?!

NO.
HAVE YOU BEEN FIGHTING AGAIN? COME BACK HOME, FATHER WANTS TO SEE YOU!
AND WHY NOT?
"PANT"
"ANT"
THERE YOU ARE
I'M FED UP WITH IT..
WHY...?
WHEN I WANTED IT SO MUCH, CRAVED IT SO MUCH..?
WHY
DID THE GODS GIVE HIM SUCH TALENT?!
JUST COME WITH ME
IT IS WASTED ON HIM!
YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES

I DON'T THINK I HAVE SUNK THAT LOW. NEVER! MY LIFE UP TO NOW, WHAT WAS IT GOOD FOR ?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT. I DON'T HATE HIM. I'M NOT JEALOUS
THERE HAS GOT TO BE A WAY TO KILL HIM!
HATRED
IF I LOOSE IT THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME. NO MATTER HOW MUCH INFLUENCE OR POWER I HAVE— EVEN IF I WERE TO HOLD THE WHOLE WORLD IN MY HANDS. IF IT CAN'T BE MINE, WHAT DO I HAVE LEFT TO LIVE FOR ?
JEA-LOUSY
ENVY

ADMIRATION
PLEASE! ONE WORD WOULD BE ENOUGH!
WHY, FATHER?! WASN'T I GOOD ENOUGH? WON'T YOU HEAR MY PRAYERS? IS MY EXISTENCE SO MEANINGLESS TO YOU?
LONGING


I HAVE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD..
WHAT FATHER WAS LOOKING FOR WAS A MUCH HIGHER POTENTIAL THAN MINE. BEING CONTENT WITH WHAT I'VE GOT WILL NEVER LET ME SURPASS MY LIMITATIONS.
A RESTLESS HEART WEAKENS CONCENTRATION.
BUT BACK THEN IT STRENGTHENED MY WILL TO FIGHT I DREW MY STRENGTH FROM THAT KNOWLEDGE
EVEN THEN I KNEW THAT MY FATHER WASN'T SATISFIED WITH MY SKILL.
HE WANTED A PERFECT CHILD OF HIS OWN BLOOD.
SINCE HE HAD ONE AFFAIR AFTER THE OTHER (WHEN HE WAS REALLY TRYING TO FATHER A CHILD)
SINCE AKIHITO'S BIRTH I HAVE KNOWN OF FATHER'S DISSATISFACTION.
WAS I REALLY ...
... USELESS TO YOU?
IF THERE IS A DEVIL ...
... TAKE MY BODY AND SOUL, IF YOU WANT TO ...
... IF ONLY I ...
AM I SUPPOSED TO SPEND THE REST OF THIS LIFE...
... IN THIS HELL?!
WAS ...
I ... WAS ...
USELESS?

COULD HAVE THAT TALENT
AH...
HA, HA...
HA, HNG...
IF ONLY HE DIED...

WHY DON'T MY FEELINGS HAVE THE POWER TO KILL HIM
DYING
WHEN THEY ARE TEARING UP MY OWN BODY, EATING AWAY AT ME LIKE A MERCILESS TSUNAMI?
WHY, DESPITE THEIR STRENGTH CAN'T THEY KILL HIM? WITH THEM I COULD RIP OUT HIS INTESTINES ONE BY ONE WITHOUT EVER GETTING MY HANDS DIRTY— I WOULD ENJOY IT
I AM GOING TO KILL HIM.
IT'D BE EASY. THE PERFECT CRIME, SO MANY POSSIBILITIES.
THEY HAVE THIS STRENGTH
I WOULD CHOP OFF THAT PRECIOUS LEFT ARM OF HIS
...
AND HIT EVERY SENSITIVE SPOT WHILE HE IS CONSCIOUS.
HE IS JUST A SMALL CHILD. I COULD CUT HIM TO PIECES
...
...
AND CURN HIS BODY. CRUSHED BONES WOULD EASILY TURN INTO FLOUR AND HE WOULD DIS...PPEAR.

JUST WITH EVEN MORE TRAINING
WHAT I WANT
HE WOULD
'DISAPPEAR'?
HOW STUPID
THAT WAY I WON'T GET IT
CAN'T BE TAKEN BY FORCE
OR BE BOUGHT WITH COMPASSION OR HUMILITY
IT WOULDN'T GET ME ANYWHERE
IT WOULD BE NOTHING BUT A TAINT ON MY HONOR A GRUESOME ATROCITY
HIS DISAPPEARANCE WILL GRANT ME MY WISH
MUCH MORE TRAINING

MUCH MORE
MUCH MORE
IT CAN'T BE BANISHED
THAT WAY

IS HE EVEN IN HIS ROOM?
HE HASN'T COME DOWN FOR DINNER
BAM
HE WAS ASLEEP
KATHARINEHAM DENIM
TONIGHT HE WAS
I HAVE CALLED HIM MANY TIMES
YES
HIROSE COME INTO MY ROOM LATER ON
WELL, HE IS
HE IS LOOKING OLDER
QUITE SUDDENLY

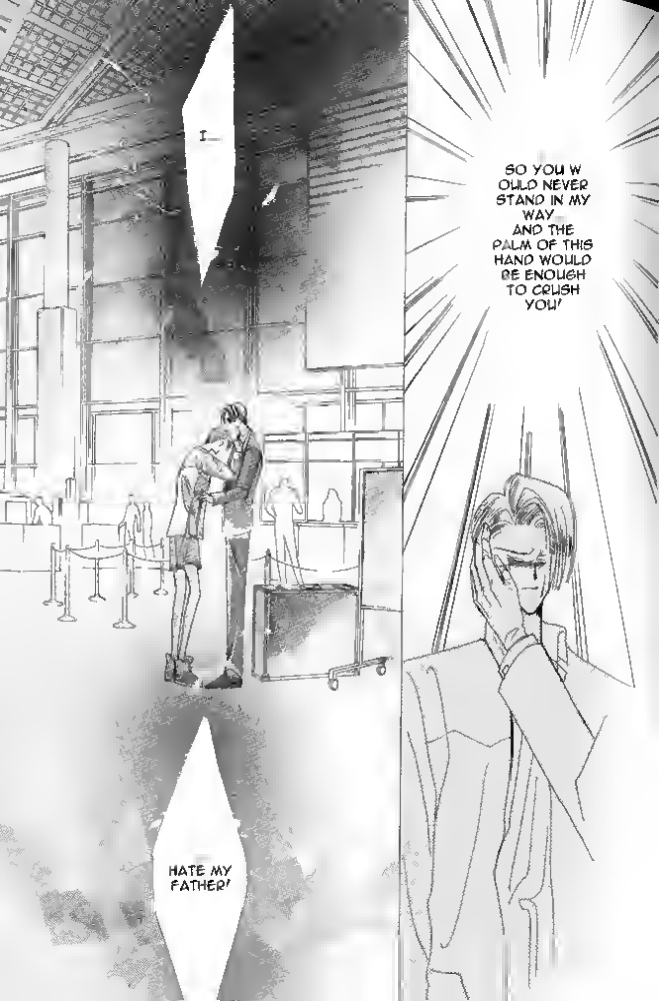
OH...
...ARE THEY FOR ME ...!!
TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM.
THE OTHER ONE IS MUMEI MASAMUNE MY FATHER GAVE IT TO ME
GO-SHINTO HAS BEEN IN OUR FAMILY FOR SEVERAL GENERATIONS
...SO THEY ARE FOR ME?
SO...
* SWORD OF THE GODS
** MASAMUNE OF THE NAMELESS MASTER

FATHER
WHAT ABOUT ...?
WHEN YOU COME BACK, YOU SHOULD GO INTO OUR CENTRAL FOR FOREIGN TRADE.
IT WOULD BE GOOD IF YOU GO ABROAD TO STUDY THEN
YOU WILL GRADUATE NEXT YEAR
B...
BUT OF COURSE!
DON'T YOU WANT TO FOLLOW MY WISHES?
KOJI ISN'T SUITED FOR THIS!
OH, FATHER!!
OF COURSE.
AS YOU WISH, FATHER ...!

DEAR ME
HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL ?
THOSE ARE WONDERFUL NEWS, HIROSE BUT YOU WILL BE LONELY THERE..
IT IS THE BEST BUSINESS SCHOOL THERE IS
I'LL COME AND VISIT YOU IN THE HOLIDAYS
TWO YEARS WITHOUT TRAI-NING?
I WOULD NEVER NEGLECT MY TRAINING
TAKE CARE OF THE FAMILY
THAT IS NOTHING LIKE YOU
BUT HIROSE-!

I WON'T STOP UNTIL I AM PERFECT
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT!
YOU COULD LEAD THE DOJO AND THE COMPANY JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.
WASN'T THE TOKYO UNIVERSITY ENOUGH?! WHAT DO YOU WANT IN AMERICA ?!
BUT WHY DOES FATHER WANT YOU TO LEAVE THE DOJO?!
SURE, YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT!
WHEN YOU ARE NOT HERE
I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR REPLACEMENT!

AKIHITO...
I WON'T BE AWAY FOREVER
IT ALONE IS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE. NOBODY HAS FORCED ME TO DO THIS
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
...MY DEAR BROTHER
BECAUSE YOUR BIRTH HAS MADE ME REALIZE ONE THING, I HAVE ALWAYS SPOILED YOU...
AKIHITO— I AM NOT REPUDIATING YOU. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO TAKE MY PLACE!
...SO YOU WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT ME... SO I WOULD NEVER BE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES!


I—
HATE MY FATHER!
SO YOU W OULD NEVER STAND IN MY WAY— AND THE PALM OF THIS HAND WOULD BE ENOUGH TO CRUSH YOU!

DURING MY STUDIES I MARRIED A FOREIGN WOMAN (WHOM I DIVORCED ONCE I RETURNED HOME).
BEAUTIFUL, EXTRAVAGANT WOMEN ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF THE HIGH SOCIETY.
SHE KNEW WHAT A PERFECT RELATIONSHIP WAS ABOUT
I TRIED TO FORGET THE MEANING OF THOSE WORDS...
I HAD FORGOTTEN TO ASK AT THAT TIME
EVEN...
THEIR TASTE IN MY MOUTH WAS REPUGNANT

AND THEN...
WHEN HE DECIDED TO BECOME AN ARTIST, MY FATHER DISINHERITED HIM
AT THAT TIME I NEVER WASTED ANOTHER THOUGHT ON HIM
UNTIL...
THAT FATEFUL DAY ARRIVED

INDEED.
SHOULD HAVE ASKED
U ONE IMPORTANT
THING BACK THEN.
SO....
...
I WILL READ
THE LAST
WILL TO
YOU NOW.

ACCORDING TO THE WILL
THE AOYAMA CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMPANY GOES TO THE OLDEST SON
THIS IS THE WAY I CHOSE
HAVE I MISUNDERSTOOD YOU?
THE THIRD SON, KOJI-SAMA
EVERYTHING I WISHED FOR
HIROSE-SAMA, THE SECOND SON, AKIHITO-SAMA WILL ASSIST HIM.
WITH ONE SENTENCE
THE 13TH HEIR OF THE SHINKAGERYU-JOTO SCHOOL AND THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY

!!
!
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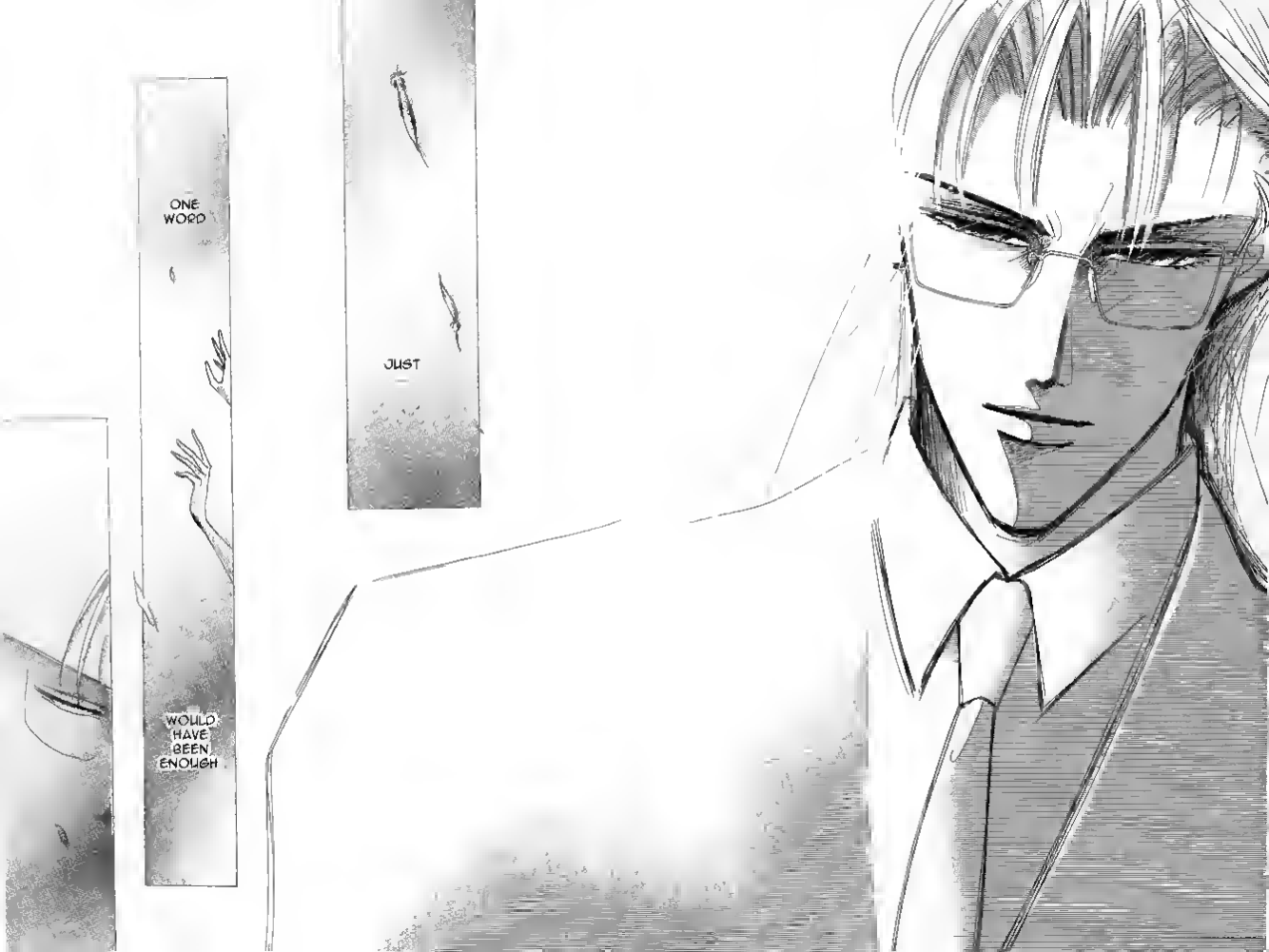
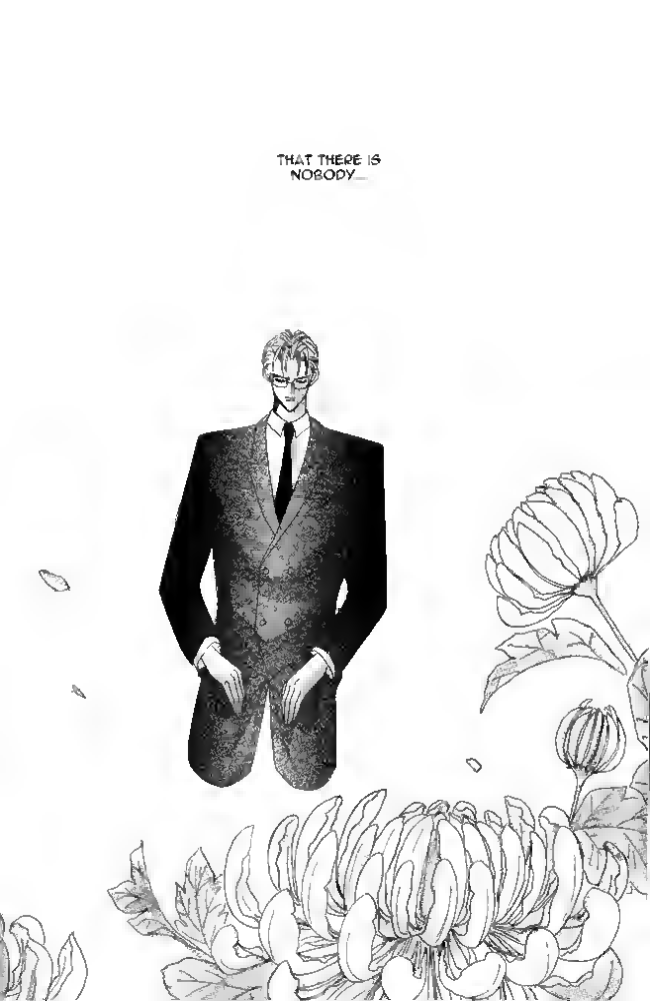

ONE WORD
JUST
WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH

THAT THERE IS
NOBODY...



WHO

COULD TAKE

MY

PLACE